Progress in the establishment of radio station at Aligarh

*177. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1093 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 21st March, 1990 and state:

(a) what progress has been made towards establishing a local radio station at Aligarh with 2x3 KW FM Transmitters, Multipurpose Studio, Receiving facilities and Staff Quarters;

(b) by when the work was initially targeted to be completed; and

(c) by when the work is likely to be completed now ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIR AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROAD CASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) The site for setting up the Radio Station at Aligarh was taken over on 18-8-90. Fencing of the site has been done and preliminary estimate is under preparation.

While formulation the VII Plan, the scheme was envisaged to be completed with in the Plan period itself. However, due to non-availability of suitable site in time, the scheme has slipped over to the VIII plan period.

The proposed Radio Station at Aligarh is now scheduled to be technically ready during 1993-94.

Constitution of a Broadcast Engineering Authority

*178. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be plesed to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that requests have been made in certain sections of Press to constitute a Broadcast Engineering Authority to meet the needs of the Proposed Prasar Bharati;

(b) if so, the details ther of;

(c) whether it has also been stressed therein that such and authority would ensure quality control and increase in indigenisation of items being im ported at present;

(d) whether Government have gone into viability of such requests;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not; the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER O F STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (f) No specific report in the Press about constitution of Broadcast Engineering Authority to meet the needs of the Prasar Bharati appears to have come to the notice of the Government in the recent past. However, a private Society styled 'Broadcast Engineering Society India' had in March, 1990 suggested, *inter alia,* the establishment of an autonomous unit to be named 'Broadcast Engineering Authority of India' and to be financed by the Government, on the lines of similar organisations such as Airport Authority, ISRO etc. For providing technical service to various programme production agen-cii s for origination and transmission of their programmes. This suggestion was considered in detail by the Govern-